

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JULY 11, 2002

TENNESSEE 2002 WHEAT YIELDS LOWEST IN FOUR YEARS

Tennessee 2002 wheat yields are estimated at 46 bushels per acre, the lowest in 4 years, according to a recent survey conducted by the Tennessee Agricultural Statistics Service. If realized, the average state yield will be 8 bushels below last year and the lowest since 41 bushels per acre in 1998. Total production, at 15.2 million bushels, is down 17 percent from 2001. Producers seeded a total of 490,000 acres last fall, down 2 percent from last year and the lowest level since 1993. Harvested area for grain, at 330,000, is down 10,000 acres from 2001. Farmers experienced typical summer weather for most of June, with warm temperatures and dry conditions allowing for the timely harvest of this year’s wheat crop. Virtually, all the State’s winter wheat was harvested by the end of the month, surpassing the normal pace. With the harvest of this year’s crop, growers realized that the cool, wet weather in May, along with several leaf-type diseases, including glume blotch, scab, and rust, definitely impacted yield.

U.S. WINTER WHEAT

Winter wheat production is forecast at 1.18 billion bushels, the lowest level since 1971. The production forecast is down 5 percent from last month and down 13 percent from 2001. The decline in production from the June forecast is due to a reduction in harvested acreage and a lower forecasted yield. Acres for harvest as grain are forecast at 29.8 million, 1 percent below the June forecast and down 5 percent from 2001. This is the smallest harvested acreage since 1917. The U.S. yield is forecast at 39.6 bushels per acre, down 1.4 bushels from last month.

WINTER WHEAT: TENNESSEE, SURROUNDING STATES, AND U.S., JULY 1, 2002 WITH COMPARISONS ¹

State	Acreage Harvested		Yield Per Acre		Production	
	2001	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002
	1,000 Acres		Bushels		1,000 Bushels	
Arkansas	970	800	52.0	49.0	50,440	39,200
Georgia	200	200	53.0	40.0	10,600	8,000
Kentucky	360	360	66.0	53.0	23,760	19,080
Mississippi	225	180	52.0	40.0	11,700	7,200
Missouri	760	760	54.0	44.0	41,040	33,440
North Carolina	470	480	39.0	44.0	18,330	21,120
Tennessee	340	330	54.0	46.0	18,360	15,180
Virginia	170	185	60.0	65.0	10,200	12,025
United States	31,295	29,764	43.5	39.6	1,361,479	1,178,320

¹2002 forecast, 2001 final.

TENNESSEE PEACH CROP UP 8 PERCENT FROM 2001

As of July1, the 2002 peach crop forecast is 4.0 million pounds, up 8 percent from last year and the largest production since 1995. During the first week in April, the peach crop suffered some light freeze damage, but continued to develop at a pace in line with normal. Nearly all the State’s peach crop had reached the budding stage by the third week of April and blooming stage by month’s end. The majority of the peach crop escaped any significant freeze damage from the cool weather earlier this year.

U.S. PEACH PRODUCTION FORECAST

The July 2002 forecast of U.S. peach production is 2.55 billion pounds, up 4 percent from 2001 but 2 percent below 2 years ago. Ten States forecast increases in production from last year, 17 States expect declines, and 2 States remain unchanged.